

AGENDA

51st Annual Meeting of the Marine Mammal Commission and 45th Meeting of its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals

7–9 May 2013

Southwest Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, California

Tuesday, 7 May

- 10:30–10:45 I. **Welcome and introductions**
- 10:45–12:15 II. **Status and trends of Pacific Coast marine ecosystems**
- A. Overview of California Current and eastern tropical Pacific ecosystems and ecosystem changes
 - B. Habitat changes of top predators in a disrupted climate
 - C. Cetacean habitat in the eastern Pacific
 - D. Fisheries ecosystem plan for the Pacific
 - E. West Coast Governors Alliance for Ocean Health
 - F. Discussion
- 12:15–1:45 **Lunch**
- 1:45–3:00 III. **Marine mammal management and conservation issues**
- A. West Coast stranding trends and the 2013 California sea lion unusual mortality event
 - B. Fishery interactions
 - 1. Direct (operational) interactions
 - 2. Fishery bycatch and entanglement risk models
 - C. Ocean energy (oil, gas, and renewable energy activities)
- 3:00–3:20 **Break**
- 3:20–5:15 **Marine mammal management and conservation issues (continued)**
- D. Sound disturbance

1. Overview of sound sources and effects, including shipping sounds
2. Southern California Behavioral-Response Study (SOCAL BRS) and Multi-Study Ocean Acoustics Human Effects Analysis (MOCHA)
3. Monitoring tagged cetaceans during Navy activities in the Bahamas
4. Navy range exercises and the Integrated Comprehensive Monitoring Program (ICMP)
5. Pacific Gas & Electric survey of Diablo Canyon
6. Discussion

5:15–5:45 General Discussion

5:45 Adjourn day 1

Wednesday, 8 May

8:30–10:30 Marine mammal management and conservation issues (continued)

- E. Growing pinniped populations
 1. Overview
 2. Bonneville Dam and pinniped predation on salmonids
 3. Nuisance animals including illegal taking and sublethal deterrents
 4. Discussion

10:30–10:45 Break

10:45–11:30 Marine mammal management and conservation issues (continued)

- F. Vessel strikes
 1. Biological considerations
 2. Assessing vessel-strike risk off Southern California
 3. Management approaches

11:30–12:00 IV. Species/stocks of special concern

- A. Southern resident killer whale

12:00–1:30 Lunch

1:30–3:45 IV. Species/stocks of special concern (continued)

- B. North Pacific right whale
- C. Humpback whale – global status review
- D. Beaked whales
- E. Southern sea otter

- F. Hawaiian monk seal
- 3:45–4:00 Break**
- 4:00–4:45 Species/stocks of special concern (continued)**
 - G. Gray whale
 - 1. Status
 - 2. Makah whale hunt
- 4:45–5:15 V. International Conservation Issues**
 - A. International Whaling Commission
- 5:15–5:30 General Discussion**
- 5:30 Adjourn day 2**

Thursday, 9 May

- 8:30–10:15 V. International Conservation Issues (continued)**
 - B. Vaquita
 - C. Antarctic management, Convention on the Conservation for Antarctic Marine Living Resources, and the Ross Sea protected area
 - D. Southern Ocean Research Partnership whale studies
- 10:15–10:30 Break**
- 10:30–12:10 International conservation issues (continued)**
 - E. International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Red List
 - F. Other species—Mekong River dolphin, southern right whale, Southeast Asia marine mammals
 - G. The eastern tropical Pacific
 - 1. Overview of National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center research, accomplishments, and new paradigms
 - 2. The ecosystem
 - a. Physical forcing, the past 50 years, and the future of the eastern tropical Pacific ecosystem
 - b. A comparative analysis of ecosystem services provided by the eastern tropical Pacific
 - c. Strategies for fisheries based on ecosystem health as a primary goal

12:10–1:30 **Lunch**

1:30–3:30 **International Conservation issues** (continued)

G. The eastern tropical Pacific (continued)

3. Abundance and trends of depleted dolphin stocks

- a. Historical abundance and trends and current trend analysis efforts
- b. Revisiting stock structure through next generation molecular genetics methods
- c. Revisiting stock structure through incorporation of ecosystem data

4. Indirect effects of chase and encirclement on depleted dolphin stocks

- a. Developing an index to quantify dolphin exposure to chase and encirclement
- b. Pregnancy patterns as they relate to fishery exposure
- c. Calf production as it relates to fishery exposure
- d. Energetics of cow-calf swimming as it relates to fishery exposure

5. The role of the National Marine Fisheries Service in supporting the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program and the World Trade Organization

6. Discussion

3:30–3:45 **Break**

3:45–4:30 **VI. Conducting science with declining support**

A. Overview of reduction in ship-time allocations, and what that means for long-term plans for cetacean surveys in the Pacific

B. Building partnerships and making better use of survey and observer data

4:30–5:00 **Discussion and wrap-up**

5:00 **Adjourn meeting**
